GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:265
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2004
NORMS FOR SOFT DRINKS
Reddy Shri Suravaram Sudhakar;Rijiju Shri Kiren

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has released a draft recommendation on soft drinks safety norms;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken for the enforcement of these recommendations including those on the quality of water used in manufacture of soft drinks;

(c) whether the Consumer Coordination Council and Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) have requested the Government for giving legal force to the recommendations for its strict adherence; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a) TO (d) OF REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 265 FOR 20/12/2004 REGARDING NORMS FOR SOFT DRINKS

(a) & (b): Bureau of Indian Standards(BIS) had notified an Indian Standard for carbonated beverages No. IS:2346 in 1963 which has been revised twice in 1973 and 1992. This was re-affinned in 1997. The concerned BIS Technical Committee has initiated the review of this standard in July, 2003 and a draft revision entitled `Ready to serve Non-alcoholic Beverages` has been put into wide circulation from 15th July to 30th August, 2004 inviting comments from the public as proposed by the Technical Committee. The draft covers both quality and safety parameters. An expert group has been assigned the task of evaluating the comments which have been received by the Technical Committee. As this is a voluntary standard, the question of its enforcement does not arise.

(c) & (d): Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has requested for expeditious finalization of the standard and its mandatory certification. The representation received from CSE has been passed on to BIS for consideration of the Technical Committee engaged in the review of the said Standard. As per the nonnal policy of BIS, all stakeholders, including consumer groups like Consumer Coordination Council (CCC) and Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) are represented in the said Technical Committee.